

THE SALT LAKE HERALD

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THE SCHOOLS MUST BE KEPT OPEN.

THE MOST REGRETTABLE NEWS that Salt Lake people have had for a long time was contained in the announcement from the board of education that it will be necessary, because of a lack of funds, to close the public schools May 1. It is possible that a way may be found to keep the schools open until the middle of the month or a few days later, but we are face to face now with the certainty that the school year must be cut short.

More, we know that the next school year will contain but eight months. The tragedy of the situation lies in the fact that, but for the action of Governor Heber M. Wells, this blow would not have been struck at the public school system. With Governor Wells and with him alone rests the responsibility. Taking advantage of the shallowest quibble, he cut off from the board of education its only avenue of escape.

The first fruits of his lack of patriotism, or his hostility to the public school—call it which you please—we have already reaped. But we have only made a beginning. Unless some method of escape is found, and it should be found, the Salt Lake public school system, which for years has won and held the admiration and the unqualified approval of educators throughout the country, seems doomed to decay and disintegration.

In a showing of figures which were fictitious and fraudulent, and which those who prepared them must have known were fictitious and fraudulent, Governor Wells evidently found the excuse he sought to veto the bill which gave the Salt Lake board of education power to levy a slight extra tax for school purposes. The figures were false in that they showed that the board would have at the year's end a balance of about \$50,000 in its treasury when the truth was there could be no balance whatever.

The only opposition to the bill came from individuals who have long acted as if unfriendly to the schools. Few in number they exercised enough influence to compel the governor to do their bidding. This, too, in spite of the practical unanimity with which the measure passed the legislature, and in spite of the all but unanimous support it received from members of the board of education. The people were for it by an overwhelming majority. If the bill could have been submitted to a popular vote there is no question but that it would have been carried triumphantly into the statute book.

Now, thanks to Governor Wells and the coterie that influenced him, we are in a fair way to ruin, so far as the schools are concerned. With only eight months of work offered to them, not a single first-class teacher, who is not irrevocably tied here by family, property or other bonds, will remain in the employ of the city. It would be unreasonable to expect them to remain, for good teachers are always in demand at first-class salaries and for a period each year that progressive communities maintain their schools. In all probability the principals will be offered nine months' contracts next year. The result will be that a large proportion of the more capable ones will go to other fields of labor.

The Herald confesses that the view it takes of the situation is pessimistic, but its view is correct unless the public-spirited men of the city take hold of the situation and solve it as only they now can. Surely some plan for overcoming the grave obstacles that now block the paths of Salt Lake's boys and girls toward the education to which they are entitled will be discovered.

We cannot afford to have it otherwise; we cannot afford to let it become known to the world that our love of education and our pride in it has suffered so miserable a relapse. Such a blemish would, besides, affect prejudicially every material interest of the city.

CLEANING-UP TIME IS HERE.

ANOTHER WORD THIS MORNING on a subject that should interest every citizen of Salt Lake who is interested in the welfare of the city. If you have already heeded the admonition given by The Herald some days ago in regard to the necessity for cleaning up, you will have no interest in these remarks. If you have not cleaned up your premises, and cleaned them thoroughly, this message is addressed to you personally.

Last year we had a clean city crusade that brought about some greatly desired results. Foul places that had not been touched for years were swept out of existence, decayed and decaying rubbish was carried away and burned and the whole city had a sweet, fresh appearance that was noted and commented on by the thousands of strangers that visited Salt Lake.

The same happy condition can be brought about this year if every one will do his full duty. The work will not be as hard this year as last, because last year was the first time in the city's history that a concerted effort to clean up was made. Then we had, in many instances, the accumulations of years to get rid of. This year we have only the accumulations of one fall and winter.

The health department will do its full share toward the process of securing cleanliness, but the health department cannot do it all. Health Officer King has asked the council to grant him two additional inspectors, whose duty it will be to canvass the city and ascertain whether or not proper and reasonable regulations are being complied with. The council now has the matter under consideration, but the inspectors will doubtless be employed.

Last year four additional inspectors were appointed and the fact that Dr. King asks for only half that number this year is in itself a compliment to the efficiency of last year's work. All that is needed now is co-operation on the part of the people. It is no longer necessary to present arguments on the desirability of going away with disease-breeding possibilities.

Every householder surely appreciates the fact that unless he does keep his premises clean he is a menace to the health of the entire community. Nor can he expect the city to do his cleaning for him. That would be a task which the health department, handicapped as it is by a lack of help, would find itself entirely unable to accomplish with any degree of success.

The only system is the individual system. Let every man do his own cleaning and the work will be done in a surprisingly short time. Those who are not good enough citizens to go ahead without waiting to be compelled to do so, will sooner or later receive their orders in no uncertain tones. Nobody need be subjected to this humiliation, and nobody should be.

FUNCTION OF STOCK EXCHANGES.

EASILY THE FINEST DESCRIPTION, or defense, of stock and produce exchanges that has been published for a long time is that presented by Charles A. Conant in the current Atlantic Monthly. Mr. Conant is an enthusiastic believer in such exchanges. He thinks they are institutions of great benefit to the whole public, in one way and another, but his enthusiasm leads him to extreme lengths. He has no patience with any suggestions which, if adopted, would tend to remedy stock and produce exchange evils, the existence of which he does not deny.

"The fundamental function of the exchanges," says Mr. Conant, "is to give mobility to capital. Without them the stock and bonds of the share company could not be placed to advantage. Nobody would know what their value was on any given day, because the transactions in them, if they occurred, would be private and unrecorded. The opportunities for fraud would be multiplied a hundred-fold as compared with the publicity which is given under present conditions to the least movements on the stock exchange."

"The mobility for capital afforded by the limited liability company would be meager and inadequate if the holder of its bonds and shares did not know that at any moment he could take them to the exchanges and sell them for a price. He cannot be misled as to this price because every newspaper in the land, if the security is one of importance, gives him each morning the value which it possessed the day before in the markets of the world. The holder of it thus knows what the average judgment of hundreds of men is upon the value of that security."

Mr. Conant points out that the produce exchanges are valuable for the same reason. The farmer reads his daily paper and ascertains what his wheat is worth in Chicago,

New York, San Francisco or the nearest exchange point. He cannot be misled by the unscrupulous buyer. Growers of cotton, corn, rye, tobacco and other products have the same opportunity for acquiring information as to the daily value of their property. This knowledge is worth a good deal to them, and through them to the entire country.

It must be admitted that Mr. Conant makes out a very strong case. Very few people, however, will dispute the assertion that stock and produce exchanges have legitimate functions to perform. What the public has a right to criticize is the element of gambling that enters so largely into their operations. The man who sells wheat that he does not own in the hope that before delivery day comes around he will be able to buy it in at a lower figure than his selling price, is just as much a gambler as the individual who stakes a coin on the turn of a card.

A very large proportion of the transactions on every stock or produce exchange contains this gambling or speculative element. There are men on every exchange who will deliberately lie for the purpose of depressing or inflating the value of a security or a cereal. Comparatively few of the brokers on the Chicago board of trade have ever bought an honest bushel of wheat. That is, they have never paid a dollar for a dollar's worth of that grain, actually delivered to them.

They buy without any expectation of ever seeing the goods, and they sell with no thought of a bona fide delivery. The same thing is true in no considerable measure, of transactions in stocks and other securities. Dealing in margins is straight gambling, therefore, and no argument will ever convince the public to the contrary.

A SERMON FROM THE SPORTING PAGE.

ONE DOES NOT OFTEN GO to the sporting page of the daily newspaper for a sermon, but the sermons are there if you care to look for them. Joe Kelley, manager of the Cincinnati baseball club, would probably be shocked if anybody called him a preacher. Indeed, he might be inclined to resent the allegation with some vigor, but we have rarely seen a better temperance lecture than that delivered by this same Kelley a few days ago. Among other things, he said:

"The fact is, the day of the boozier in baseball is practically over. Where one formerly found about half the men on every team indulging too freely in liquor, one seldom finds a case of intoxication nowadays among the players. The reason for this is that the game has gotten so fast that players can't drink heavily and hold their positions. Over-indulgence in liquor is a bad thing for an athlete, and soon tells on him."

"The result is that the steadier man soon succeeds the man who has acquired the drink habit, and his exit from the game is fast and permanent. Many a good ball player has been spoiled in the past because he could not let liquor alone. The horrible examples that are running around now, making touches of the players who have sense enough to be moderate in their libations, are a warning to young players that they are heading more and more every year."

Mr. Kelley makes out a very strong case. Without assuming to touch the moral side of the question at all, he shows that it is very poor business policy for baseball players to drink whisky to excess. He might have added with truth that it is bad for them to drink intoxicants at all, either excessively or otherwise. The manager tells the truth when he says an athlete cannot afford to drink. Those who do drink quickly give way to men who can control their appetites.

In the formation of the Salt Lake baseball club this temperance question will doubtless be given first consideration. The man who does not drink is not necessarily a good baseball player, but the good player who does drink will not be considered for any position, because he is not dependable. The manager can never be sure that he will appear in time to enter a game, and if he does appear there is never any certainty that he will be fit to play. This is regardless of his influence on the other players, which is always baneful.

And in this connection it is perhaps possible to explain why the Ogden team has been almost uniformly successful in its meetings with Salt Lake mines. The Ogden young men are, practically without exception, believers in temperance, while in Salt Lake we have had teams made up in large proportion of what Mr. Kelley aptly, but inelegantly, designates as "boozers." Intemperance does not account for all of our defeats, of course, but it accounts for a considerable percentage of them.

We had better have no team at all this year than to have one that is not sober, steady and reliable.

COUNTRY COUSINS ARE WELCOME.

THE COUNTRY COUSIN is having everything his own way in Salt Lake just now. He is here, thousands of him, and thousands of her, too, to attend the semi-annual conference. It is unnecessary to say that the country cousin is as welcome as the flowers in spring, as mint in the julep, as frosting on the cake.

City people are sometimes prone to laugh at the men and women from the rural districts. Their ways, in some particulars, are not our ways, but who can say their ways are not better than ours? What if Hyrum and Moroni do walk on opposite sides of the street and carry on a conversation? Are their voices not attuned to the vastnesses of the range, the field, the forest, and can we reasonably expect them to put on the soft pedal for our selfish benefit? No, the country brother is as clearly entitled to his whole-hearted, broad-viewed way of doing things as we are to our narrower, more restricted system.

We may smile at his way of boarding a street car, at his carpet-sack, at his low-cut vest and his tousled hair, but there isn't a half-inch of deceit in his whole splendid six feet, and that surely counts for something. We are glad to have the country cousin with us, because he brings us nearer to nature; he makes us realize that somewhere, outside of the paved streets, away from noise and the turmoil, the grind and the bustle of city life there is something worth having, worth living for.

In our snug self-complacency we wonder what would happen to the world if all the cities were wiped out or existence. The country cousin answers, with all truth, that the world would wag along right merrily just the same. We are the consumers, he is the producer. In the sweat of our faces we earn and we eat our bread, but he furnishes the breadstuffs. Without him we could not live; without us he would miss an occasional visit to the city.

Therefore, though we smile at the naturalness of our friends from the country, let us not forget that they are the bulwark, the sinews of the nation. They may not be able to stop an elevator car with precision; they may wear queer clothes and all that, but they can plow a furrow straight; they know when it is seedtime and when it is time for the harvest, and they are versed in a lore to which we are strangers.

Certain Chicago manufacturers announced that if a rigid anti-smoke ordinance under discussion in the council was adopted, they would move their plants to some other city. The ordinance was passed, nevertheless, and strange though it may appear, not one of the plants has been taken away from Chicago yet, although several weeks have elapsed since the passage of the ordinance.

William Reilly, a patient in Bellevue hospital, New York, is an almost-dead reputation of the "laugh and grow fat" notion. Reilly is afflicted with a puzzling ailment that causes him to laugh all the time. He is simply laughing himself to death. "Tickled to death," as it were.

It is announced that John D. Rockefeller is in Mexico investigating a large investment proposition. A hot female trust would be a warm thing for Mr. Rockefeller to tackle.

At any rate Colonel Bryan and ex-President Cleveland are agreed on one point. That is, that one Henry Watterson of Kentucky is a mighty dangerous man to be at large.

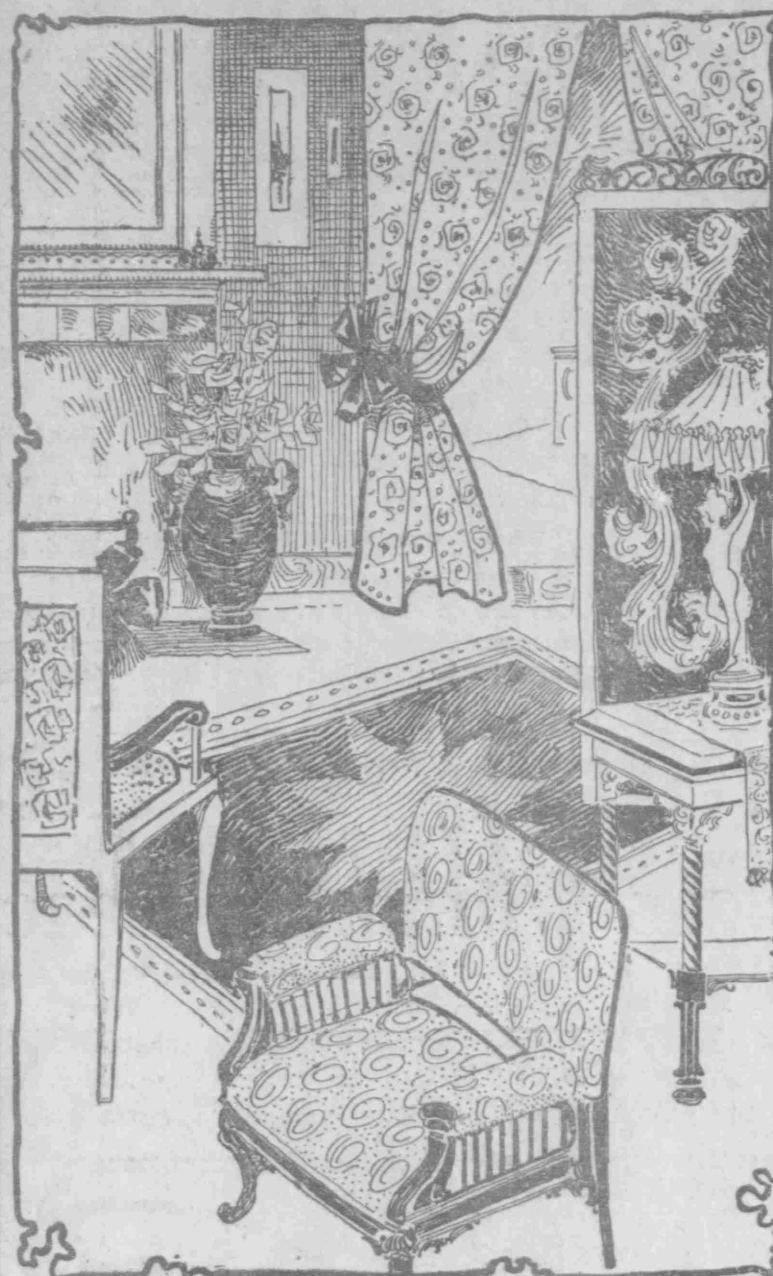
Having escaped from the punitive expedition dispatched against him by the British, the Mad Mullah may now be expected to recover from his peevishness.

The religious services held in the mining stock exchange during the past week did not seem to have an uplifting effect on the market.

President Roosevelt made a speech in Milwaukee, but that was not what made Milwaukee famous.

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